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MARCH 19 1980

Dear Mr. Billinson:

Thank you for your letter of January 10 addressed to former Assistant Secretary Bennet concerning the fate of Mr. Raoul Wallenberg. I sincerely regret the delay in this reply.

According to Department of State records, Mr. Wallenberg was assigned to the Swedish mission in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II, and disappeared in January of 1945 following the arrival of Soviet troops in Budapest. In response to repeated inquiries by the Swedish Government, the Soviet Government in February 1957 stated that Mr. Wallenberg had died in a Moscow prison on July 17, 1947. Despite the fact that the Swedish Government has officially raised the issue of Mr. Wallenberg's fate on a number of subsequent occasions, citing that several persons claimed to have seen him alive during the 1950's, the Soviet Government has provided no additional information.

Mr. Wallenberg's half-sister, Mrs. Nina Lagergren, and his half-brother, Mr. Guy von Dardel, have continued to pursue the question of the fate of their half-brother with the Swedish Government and the Swedish Red Cross. Since the Swedish Government and Red Cross are thoroughly familiar with Mr. Wallenberg's case, we believe they are in the best position to make inquiries to the Soviet authorities in the event that further representation would be believed helpful. On occasion, Swedish authorities have asked the U.S. Government to verify information or otherwise to assist in efforts

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For signature
Anthony C. Billinson,
U.S. State Department

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR WJ Date: 1C 12/93

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to clarify the fate of Mr. Wallenberg. We have done everything possible to comply with the Swedish Government's requests, and shall continue to do so.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood

Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

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